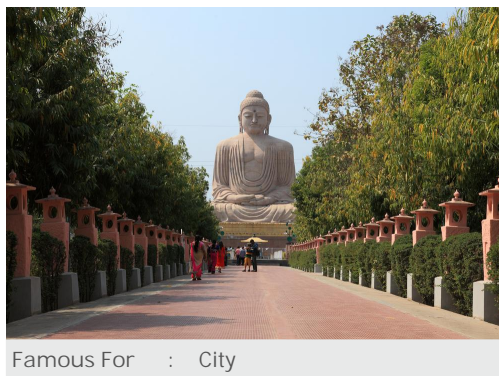


# Gaya

One of the most important cities in India, Gaya is also known as the land of Vishnu and Buddhism. It serves as the second largest city of Bihar after Patna and brings a lot of tourism to the state.

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Famous For : City

Gaya is of great religious importance to Hindus and Buddhists and is home to numerous ancient temples and archaeological sites. An amalgamation of age-old cultures and modern lifestyle, this city is a must-visit for all the travellers. From three sides it is surrounded by small rocky hills and on the fourth side there is a beautiful river flowing. Age-old buildings surrounded by lush greenery offers a sight to behold.

It is situated on the banks of Falgu river and is one of the most sacred religious site not only for Hindus but for Buddhists and Jains alike. This place holds immense importance in the Hindu epic, Ramayana and is also known as the place where Gautam Buddha preached his Fire Sermon. Gaya is just 11 kms from Bodh Gaya, the place where Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment. Among the most prominent attractions of the region are counted the Narmada Mata Temple, Vishnupad Temple, Mangla Gauri Temple, Phalgu River Ghats, Pretshila Hills

and Nagkut Mountain. Brahmayoni offers a sensational view of the plains. Shopaholics must visit the famous G B Road and

Reaching Gaya is easy as it is well-connected to other regions through rail, road and air. Bodhgaya is the nearest airport from where a large number of international flights for Thailand, Japan and Myanmar ply on a daily basis. You can also travel to Patna, which is around 125 km from Gaya and has direct trains for Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai.

## When To VISIT



<http://www.ixigo.com/weather-in-gaya-lp-1137306>

### Jan

Cold weather. Carry Heavy woollen.

Max: 17.0°C Min: 8.800000190 Rain: 20.0mm  
734863°C

### Feb

Cold weather. Carry Heavy woollen.

Max: 20.0°C Min: 10.60000038 Rain: 20.0mm  
1469727°C

### Mar

Cold weather. Carry Heavy woollen.

Max: 25.5°C Min: 14.69999980 Rain: 13.0mm  
9265137°C

### Apr

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen.

Max: 31.0°C Min: 19.20000076 Rain: 8.0mm  
2939453°C

### May

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen.

Max: 34.0°C Min: 22.60000038 Rain: 20.0mm  
1469727°C

### Jun

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.

Max: 33.0°C Min: 21.89999961 Rain: 137.0mm  
8530273°C

### Jul

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.

Max: 29.5°C Min: 21.10000038 Rain: 315.0mm  
1469727°C

### Aug

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.

Max: 29.0°C Min: 22.5°C Rain: 328.0mm

### Sep

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.

Max: 29.0°C Min: 20.70000076 Rain: 206.0mm  
2939453°C

### Oct

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.

Max: 27.0°C Min: 17.79999923 Rain: 53.0mm  
7060547°C

### Nov

Cold weather. Carry Heavy woollen.

Max: 21.5°C Min: 13.19999980 Rain: 10.0mm  
9265137°C

### Dec



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Cold weather. Carry Heavy woollen.

Max: 17.5°C Min: 9.100000381 Rain: 3.0mm  
469727°C

## What To SEE



5 Sights

<http://www.ixigo.com/places-to-visit-see-in-gaya-lp-1137306>

### 1 Narmada Mata Temple



Dandia Bazaar, Bharuch, Gujarat  
392012, India

### 2 Vishnupad temple



Gaya District, Bihar, India

The main focus in this mammoth temple complex, which is home to 14 temples, is the 30-m high temple of Vishnupad, to the right of the entrance. The temple has eight rows of beautifully carved pillars, which support a mandapa (pavilion). In the sanctum is the footprint of Vishnu, Gaya's patron deity, 40-cm long and carved in basalt, placed in an octagonal enclosure. The walls are engraved with the Vishnu Sahasranam (1,000 glorious names of Lord Vishnu). Above the Vishnupad is a silver umbrella (the chat khappar), engraved with the different avatars of Vishnu. Atop the structure is a 50-kilo gold flag, donated by a devotee, Gayapal Panda Bal Govind Sen.

To the right of the entrance is a temple to Garuda, Vishnu's vahan. The main bronze bell in the compound was presented by Ranjit Pandey, minister of the erstwhile King Rana of Nepal. Another bell that hangs at the entrance was gifted by a British officer named Gillander, in January 1790. Also within the complex are temples to Shiva, Panchamukhi (five-headed), Hanuman, the 16 vedis (different rishis), Sakshi Gopal, Krishna Dwaraka, Indra, a shrine to Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar, and the Adi Gadadhar Mandir, from where one descends to the Phalgu River. The temple is almost always filled with many young couples sitting with priests, performing rituals for the well-being of their ancestors.

Before the actual prayer, haggling with pandas is inevitable. Though the crowds are constant, the temple management makes an effort to keep the area clean by constantly having the compound washed and cleaned.

### 3 Mangla Gauri Temple



Gaya District, Bihar, India

The Mangla Gauri Temple is dedicated to Ma Mangla Gauri, a benevolent incarnation of Shakti. The present temple was built in the 15th century and has been mentioned in the Puranas and some ancient Tantric texts. It is believed that during Shiva's Tandav after Sati's self-immolation, her breasts fell in this place.

The temple stands atop the Mangalagauri

Hill. The inner sanctum houses the goddess and contains some ancient carvings and relief sculptures on the walls. Several other shrines are dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesha, Goddess Durga and Goddess Kali.

### 4 Phalgu River Ghats



Phalgu River, Gaya District, Bihar, India

The Puranas explain that the name Phalgu is a combination of phala (merit) and gau (wishing cow), the etymology implying that the river manifests the highest piety and merit, with a particularly special status as a site for performing ancestral rites.

Two streams, Lilajan and Mohana, originating from Korumbe Pahar, a 767-m high hill about 75 km south of Gaya, meet about 5 km south of Gaya, and the resulting river is named Phalgu. Lilajan is also the old name of Niranjana, a river in which the Buddha bathed and finally released his begging bowl. Continuing to flow



approximately 82 km north of Gaya, the Phalgu turns and finally meets the Ganga. However, throughout the greater part of the year the Phalgu River remains dry but water continues to be present under the sand (antashalila) and if you scoop the sand with your hands, you can immediately touch clear water. The river runs full during the monsoon (Aug-Sep).

Currently, 11 ghats along the west bank of the Phalgu River are used for rituals, bathing, and ancestral rites. The Shamshan (cremation) Ghat is the southernmost and is used only for cremations. The area between Gadadhar and Sangat ghats is most intensively used for various types of rituals, ablutions and festivities. On the east bank, facing Vishnupad, is the Sita Kund, marked by a cluster of small shrines. At Sita Kund, you can see a tiny image of Sita within a small basin, and a stone image of a hand holding a ball, which symbolises the right hand of Rama's father Dasharath, who stretched his hand out from the other world to receive the pinda offered by Sita. A Shivaling and an idol of Rama are worshipped here with offerings of pindas. The stairway to this bank, known as the Ramgaya Ghat, is used for religious purposes associated with this cluster.

## 5 Pretshila Hill



8 Km North-West of Gaya, Gaya, Bihar 823001, India

Pretshila is a sacred place for Hindus where 'Pindas' are been offered to the ancestors by many devotees. On the summit of the hill is a temple of the Pretaraja or God Yama of Hindu mythology. This 'rock of ghosts' could have been a site of spirit worship that was transformed over time into a site for ancestral worship. Later, the two shrines of Pretabhairavi (the goddess of ghosts) and Vishnu were added.

## Where To Eat



5 Places

<http://www.ixigo.com/foods-in-of-gaya-lp-1137306>

## 1 Khushi Family Restaurant



Khushi Family Restaurant, Anand Bazaar, Raikashinath



More, Swarajpuri Road, Gaya – 823 001, Bihar

+91-631-2220038

A centrally located restaurant in Gaya, Bihar with a multi cuisine variety on its menu, Khushi Family Restaurant stands as one of the most popular restaurants in the city. You can have all sorts of Indian, Chinese and continental food here, served by a pleasant staff.

## 2 Om Restaurant



Bodhgaya Road, Bodh Gaya, Bihar

This little restaurant in Gaya serves you with very nice food at a quite cheap price. Om restaurant offers you with a variety of Indian and Chinese dishes on its menu.

## 3 Be Happy Cafe



Be Happy Cafe, Bodhgaya, Bihar



Rs. 100



+91-87971-18390

Be Happy Cafe is where you can sip coffee, have a chit-chat with your friends and surf Internet. The cafe is fully air conditioned with wi-fi connectivity. Be Happy Cafe serves you with pizzas, cakes and sandwiches etc at a decent price. A must visit for casual meetings.

## 4 Sukiyaki Restaurant



NH 22, Gaya, Bihar, India

## 5 Hotel Buddha & Restaurant





194, Laxman Sahay Lane, Opposite  
Gaya Railway Station Road, Gaya,  
Bihar-823002



0631-2220431

Hotel Buddha is the best Restaurant in Gaya, also known as a Yuvraj restaurant. It is nearest to Railway Station, Gaya. You can access Banks and other important Places easily.

## Quick LOCATE



<http://www.ixigo.com/hotels-in-gaya-lp-1137306>



### See

- A: Narmada Mata Temple
- B: Vishnupad temple
- C: Mangla Gauri Temple
- D: Phalgu River Ghats
- E: Pretshila Hill



### Accommodation

- F: Sangh Shree Guest House
- G: Sukhdeo Palace
- H: Rajwara Resorts
- I: Sangh Shree Guest House
- J: Sukhdeo Palace
- K: Rajwara Resorts
- L: Sangh Shree Guest House
- M: Sukhdeo Palace
- N: Rajwara Resorts



### Food

- O: Khushi Family Restaurant
- P: Om Restaurant
- Q: Be Happy Cafe
- R: Sukiyaki Restaurant
- S: Hotel Buddha & Restaurant

